

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Patent Examiner has required a restriction to one of the following two groups of claims:

Group I: claims 21-27, drawn to a method for producing 1,2-dichloroethane or ethylene dichloride;

Group II: claims 28-40, drawn to a device for carrying out the method of Group I.

Applicant elects, with traverse, Group I, claims 21-27, drawn to a method for producing 1,2-dichloroethane or ethylene dichloride.

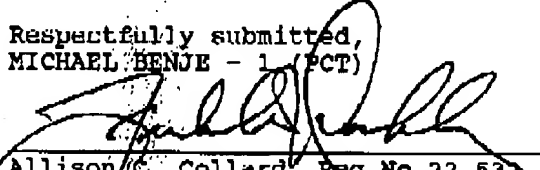
It is believed that any search for the species embodied in claims 21-27 would necessarily include a search of the species embodied in claims 28-40. Thus, a simultaneous search for both species is believed not to constitute an unreasonable search for the Patent Examiner. In addition, it is believed that the objectives of streamlined examination and compact prosecution would be promoted if a search was conducted simultaneously for all of the groups. Also, the necessity of filing multiple patent applications for the claims in this case does not serve to promote the public interest due to the extra expense that is involved, in filing fees and examination costs, as well as the

burden upon the public due to the necessity of searching through a multiplicity of patent files in order to find the complete range of subject matter claimed in several different patents that otherwise could be found in one issued patent only.

Applicant reserves the right to file a divisional patent application for the non-elected invention.

For all of these reasons, it is respectfully requested that the restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. § 121 and §372 be withdrawn and that an action on the merits of all the claims be rendered.

Respectfully submitted,
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent by facsimile-transmission to the Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on October 31, 2003.


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